

FRED AND MARY BLAIR
3236 N. 15th St.
Milwaukee 6, Wis.

Dear Friends:

December 21, 1964

Our sister, Grace Blair Gardos (who was well-known in Milwaukee and West Allis 30 years ago as a youth leader and organizer of the unemployed under the name of GRACE BROWN) is on a visit to her native land, the U.S.A., after having lived in Hungary for 16 years.

In 1948 Grace, her husband, Emil Gardos, and their son John left New York and went to Hungary. They have lived there since, excepting for brief trips abroad to India and other countries.

Grace is on leave for three months from her job as English editor of the Hungarian Review, an English language monthly magazine published in Budapest. She has translated a two volume novel, Carpathian Rhapsody by Bela Illés, from the Hungarian into English.

We would like to invite you and any of your friends or family members you may wish to bring, to come to our house this Saturday evening, and meet Grace Gardos, ask questions, and talk with her.

PLACE: 3236 N. 15th St.

TIME: Saturday, Dec. 26th, 7:30 P.M.

Another sister, Naomi Blair, known by many Milwaukeeans as Nan Clark, will also be at our house to welcome you. She is living in Los Angeles where she took part in the campaign of William Taylor last spring where he ran up a total of 35,000 votes for county supervisor as a Communist candidate.

There will be refreshments, and no admission charge, though contributions to The Worker will be welcome.

Yours, *Fred and Mary Blair*
Fred and Mary Blair

P.S.: Our phone number is 264--6339 in case you want to enquire further about this reception.

Information for your
benefit.

Milwaukee
Feb 28 1971

After 3 trips to Hungary and a 10 months stay in
both city and villages I have all the information
necessary to know every thing about the Workers
Paradise. Starvation wages and highway robbery
prices. In Budapest an electricians wages are 10
forints an hour, or 30 cents, other trades get 24
and 25 cents an hour. A mine worker 17 hundred
to 2 thousand forints a month and the poor forgotten
female slaves earn from 7 to 9 hundred forints a
month. Now make comparisons in Gods Country
An electrician makes 6 dollars an hour other trades
5 to 5.50 an hour. Then a pension of 5 hundred dollars
a month plus social security pension of 2 hundred
dollars a month. Now about the prices in Hunga.
A worker is fortunate to buy a bicycle with a
months wages. Here a worker can buy one with
a days wages. All your merchandise including
groceries meats and evening apparel are higher
than in America. I made a list of all these
commodities and their prices in contrast to the
prices we pay here. The average American worker
makes 20 times more in wages a month (at least)
5 to 6 hundred dollars a month. as a minimum.
In Workers Paradise he averages 50 dollars a
month and pay more for every thing he buys.
I, as an upholsterer make \$5.50 an hour 2 hundred
and 20 dollars a week. We can live like human
beings and take a trip to Europe every year if I so
desire, and live like a king. No wonder there
is much dissatisfaction and hatred everywhere
I went, there is no joy in the land, nor
song that comes from the heart, because they

DO NOT FOLD UP
FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP
MOISTEN FLAP WELL AND APPLY PRESSURE TO SEAL

I have nothing but misery and poverty. No future, but Bureaucracy. The daughters doomed to prostitution or suicide, the highest in Europe. The days of Francis Joseph are no more, than there was song and laughter, And a way of life that the people found good. Open up that barbed wire border. Then there will be an exodus of slaves never before in history, Anywhere just to get away from that living hell. called Hungary

TAPE OR STICKERS TO SEAL

NO STICKERS PERMITTED

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

Wautoma
Wassenaar
U.S.A.
78/10 Keesel
March Budapest XIV
6, 1947
Henry and
Cynthia
11/10



SECOND FOLD

I told them - You are all crazy paying such prices
75 cents for a dozen eggs. We pay 35 to 45 cents
1.25 for a pound of meat. We pay half that.

cheap lousy shoes 12 dollars.

A case of beer 4 dollars - 120 forints 12 hours work
In Milwaukee one hours work. This is the
formula for everything we buy. Perhaps some
day the awakening will come and rebel
at these existing unbearable conditions amen.

Emil Gardos, well known as a Communist and labor activist in the United States during the 1920's, 30's and '40's, has been awarded a high decoration in Hungary on his 75th birthday, according to information given to comrades and relatives here.

Gardos, son of a low-paid government worker, left his native Hungary to study chemical engineering in France. He managed to get a degree after many privations. Unable to return to Hungary because of the Horthy dictatorship, he came to the United States and became ~~and~~ a naturalized citizen.

His activity as a Communist functionary in ^{NY} many parts of the country, including California, Chicago, Wisconsin, etc. brought the ire of the Immigration department against him.

In 1932 he was deprived of his citizenship in a Milwaukee federal court. An appeal was filed, with good prospects of success, but a stoolpigeon in the International Labor Defense office in Milwaukee, pocketed the appeal funds and filed no appeal. Gardos meanwhile was in Cleveland, as editor of Uj Elore, the Hungarian newspaper, assuming the case was being handled. This default on his appeal caused him to be subjected to constant harassment by the federal government thereafter.

Gardos came to Milwaukee as Communist organizer in 1931. There he met Grace Blair, who was the Young Communist League organizer, and she became his wife. Their son John was born in Ironwood, Michigan in 1939 while Emil was District Organizer of the Upper Michigan Communist Party. The Gardos family moved to New York where both were active in the Party and mass movements during and after World War II.

In 1948 the Gardos family moved to Hungary where they have been ever since, thus putting an end to the constant FBI and Immigration Department persecution he suffered for over 25 years.

During the 1956 counter-revolution, Emil and Grace were in India on a mission for the Hungarian government. Their opposition during this period

to the policies of the Imre Nagy forces has won them the gratitude of the Socialist movement in Hungary. They are members of the Partisans organization as a consequence.

Emil and Grace have both been "retired" for a number of years--the age for retirement is earlier in Hungary than here, He was awarded retirement pay equivalent to the wages of a skilled worker. But he still spends much time in the Institute of Party History where, among other things, he has been doing research on the U.S. labor movement. In addition, since he speaks French and German, besides Hungarian and English, and some Russian, he acts as interpreter in many international gatherings. He has accompanied many comrades from the U.S.A. visiting in Hungary.

The news of the new distinction conferred upon Emil Gardos by his country is gratifying to his many comrades and friends in the U.S.A. who remember his contributions here. It is ironic that our government drives people of such caliber out of this nation. It is pleasant to know that their talents have free scope in the New World of Socialism, and receive proper appreciation and reward there.

--HIGH HUNGARIAN AWARD TO EMIL GARDOS--

From Milwaukee, Wis.-- Dec. 29, 1976---

Emil Gardos, well-known Communist and labor activist in the U.S.A. for three decades, has been awarded a high decoration in Hungary around his 75th birthday for services rendered to the revolutionary Socialist movement in the U.S.A. and Hungary, as learnt by comrades and relatives here.

Gardos, son of a low-paid government worker, left Hungary to study chemical engineering in France in the early 1920's. He got his degree after many privations. Unable to return to Hungary because of the Horthy dictatorship, he came to the United States and was naturalized.

His activities as a Communist functionary in many parts of the country, including Chicago, California, Chicago, Milwaukee etc., brought the ire of the Immigration Department against him.

While serving as Communist Party organizer in Milwaukee in 1932, Gardos was deprived of his U.S. citizenship in a Milwaukee federal court. An appeal was filed with good prospects of success, citing the same general arguments which later won success in the Schneiderman Case. But a stoolpigeon in the International Labor Defense office in Milwaukee pocketed the appeal funds and made no appeal. While the case dragged, Gardos went to Cleveland to become editor of Uj Elore, the Hungarian language newspaper, awaiting notice to appear for the appeal. The stoolpigeon's action killed the appeal and caused Emil to be subjected to constant harassment from the federal government thereafter.

Emil Gardos met his future wife in Milwaukee. Grace Blair was Young Communist League organizer when he was the Party organizer. They were married in Cleveland. Later, while Emil was District Organizer of the Upper Michigan Communist Party after they left Cleveland, their son John was born in Ironwood, Michigan. The Gardos family moved to New York where both were active in the Party and mass movements during and

--more--

after World War II. Gardos worked closely during this period with Marcel Scherer in organizing scientific and professional workers.

In 1948 the Gardos family moved to Hungary where they have been ever since, thus finally ending the constant FBI and Immigration Department persecution he suffered for over 25 years.

During the 1956 counter-revolution, Emil and Grace were in India on a Hungarian government mission. They vigorously opposed the policies of the Imre Nagy forces and this won them the gratitude of the Hungarian Communist and Socialist movement in Hungary. They are members of the Partisans organization as a consequence.

Emil and Grace have both been "retired" for a number of years--the age for retirement is earlier in Hungary than here. He was awarded retirement pay equivalent to the wages of a skilled worker. But he still spends much time in the Institute of Party History, where, among other things, he has been doing research on the U.S. labor movement. In addition, since he speaks fluent French and German besides Hungarian and English, and some Russian, he acts as interpreter in many international gatherings. He has accompanied many comrades from the U.S. visiting Hungary.

The tidings of the new distinction conferred upon Emil Gardos by his countrymen is gratifying to his many comrades and friends in the U.S.A. who remember his contributions here. It is ironic that our government drives people of such caliber out of this nation. It is pleasant to know that their talents have free scope in the New World of Socialism, and that they receive proper appreciation and ~~XXXX~~ reward there.

--end--

F. Blair
3236 N. 15th St.
Milwaukee, Wis.-53206

Conrad Komorowski
Daily World
205 W. 19th St.
New York, N.Y.--10011

Dec. 30, 1976

Dear Connie:

Here is a write-up on Emil Gardos--parts of it could be woven into a story about his award.

By the way, did you ever get the letter I sent you in August containing some philatelic material from Comrade Haidu? We couldn't deliver it personally because we were too exhausted and too broke to stay over in New York on our return from Hungary. We just grabbed a plane back to Milwaukee to rest up.

So I mailed it, hoping you'd get it.

Warmest regards,

Mary and Fred Blair
Mary and Fred Blair.

M. and F. Blair
3236 N. 15th St.
Milwaukee, Wis.-53206

January 11, 1977

Conrad Komorowski
Daily World
205 W. 19th St.
New York, N.Y.--10011

Dear Connie:

We just got a letter from Grace and Emil Gardos which contains this passage explaining about the award given Emil:

"I better explain about the medal Emil got. He was given the medal for his contributions in over 50 years in the movement. This medal is not given so often and thus it is indeed an honor: it is called the Munka Voros Saszlo erdemrenje (The Order of the Red Flag of Labor.). "

The letter read further: "Emil's birthday was Dec. 19th and John and Mary (daughter-in-law and son. They are in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania--F.B.) We talked to all four of them. ..They must have read about the medal in the Hungarian papers they get there because yesterday we had a congratulatory telegram from them. "

(The letter was dated Dec. 29, 1976--F.B.)

They were quite excited about our conference call. It involved five families here in the U.S.A. as well as them in Hungary. The U.S. part of the conversation came from Seattle, Los Angeles, Moline, Ill, Raleigh, Wis. and Milwaukee.

Hope you got the story I sent on Emil's award and his history in the U.S.A.

Comradely,

Fred and Mary Blair
Fred and Mary Blair.

P.S. The calendar just arrived (4pm). Dec 18, 1978
Thanks heaps - with lots of love.
L.

Dear Fred and Mary:

I misplaced your last letter it seems because I can't locate it. So here goes after a couple months of silence, ~~for~~ since I haven't written a letter since we moved in Oct. We are practically settled in and more or less recovered. It was some operation. I hope you have no thoughts of leaving your nice house for someplace else - too strenuous especially physically. We like the neighborhood here and the apartment is more comfortable. That is important. Emil will be 77 tomorrow and though his health is good, he finds it very difficult to do much of anything. That is what he says but he does surprisingly much, I think.

We haven't seen the world on the two elections. However, the papers here had an item that the Wisconsin CP vote was the highest for 54 years. It is all relative, naturally, but good just the same. Congratulations to you all who keep on pushing through thick and thin. The trouble is we are so far away it is difficult to keep up with developments there. News and material there is plenty of, but the atmosphere and thinking of people is harder to grasp. Carter is a great demagogue but even he can't fool all the people all the time. It must be very difficult to work there now especially, and will probably get worse before it gets better.

Has the Inflation put you worse this year than before? I should imagine it is not easy to make ends meet with those who have low incomes. According to the U.S. News and similar publications no one is over optimistic about 1979 either.

What you write about your knees makes sense, that is the orthopedist's opinion. I know that here cases of arthritis are usually treated with electrical treatments, massage, exercise, and the hot spring waters. I do hope you can be helped without surgery, and it is well worth the try. I have a bad spine ~~again~~ and for years had similar therapy which helped a lot. I hope it does the same for you. The past year my hands have gone to pot and I finished not long ago a series of X-ray therapy and it has done some good. Hope it lasts for a while.

We have had some problems healthwise, the last two months. Andrea, the 3 1/2 yr old developed pneumonia, was sick 2 weeks, went back to the nursery and four days later was down with a bronchial pneumonia. To complicate matters Johnny was away ~~on~~ on a business trip both times - he got back a few days ago. Andrea is well now and will be going to

the nursery again tomorrow. We live so far apart now that I couldn't help Mari much - it is a 1 1/2 ^{hour} trip over there and the same back by trolley, Metro, bus and foot. Johnny, Mari and Attila all had a flu also, but all are well now. And so it goes.

We still haven't a phone but expect to get one soon. That will be the day! I feel as if we have been cut off from the world, or out of it, as you please. There are phone booths in the street but they don't always work, and to dress and run down to call all the time is not my idea of a ball. I do it when the kids are at work where phones are available but it's no picnic. There are new houses and a new project and it takes money and time before everything is in. We do keep on hoping though.

We have the most insane weather this year: Early cold, 5-10 degrees lower than usual in Nov., then unusually warm, cold again with a day of snow, then days of rain, warm, and now cold with snow. We still may have a white Xmas, the first in several years. We got Andrea a sled so there had better be snow. Attila is accumulating a railroad for himself and already has tracks, an engine, etc. Thanks to birthdays and other occasions. So we shall give him cash to buy a control panel which

He is anxious to get Johnny and his family
 will come for Xmas dinner, a turkey if we
 can get one. We shall keep holidays simple -
 it seems the effort becomes too great as the
 years pass.

Now that we are settled, we can go to meetings etc.
 That is all to the good. Although we can't
 do what we used to do, we try to keep on
 going. Unfortunately, just living takes too much
 time and effort if you do it yourself, like
 we have to.

I am writing cards to the family and trying to
 catch up on my correspondence. Maybe I shall
 some day. I miss you all and still remember
 that great conference sale of two years ago!
 Hope one day we can meet in person again!
 If you speak to Clem, John, et al, give them
 my love. How are Bill & Sandy coming along?
 I should write them, too, and also Mary Sue.
 Love to all,

Grace

P.S. Any news on the Fee Bee front? Of course
 there will be no settlement but maybe you can
 make them uncomfortable through publicity.

MERRY Xmas and a better New Year! from Emil too!

M. and F. Blair--3236 N. 15th St--Milwaukee, Wisconsin
USA--53206--

Grace and Emil Gardos
Rajk Laszlo u.--85--I--4
Budapest, Hungary--1133:

January 13, 1979

Dear All of You:

Your letter of Dec. 18, 1978 came after the New Year. It was so full of news about all of you and us that it will take a long letter to reply. We will try to catch up on everything.

Enclosed is our annual New Year's greeting (bit late), a copy of my report on the elections to the Dec. Dist. Comm. meeting., and a Christmas greetings from Heather which she created, even choosing the ink and paper at the printers. (Maybe you got one from her already?) She is quite a grand-daughter--Andrea reminds us of her. Hope Andrea and Attila are over all well, and John and Mari and both of you.

Talk about weather--ours has been like yours. Right now we have a blizzard in Milwaukee. In Chicago the snow is falling an inch an hour. The snow cover over the U.S. is the largest in area for many, many years. We are cold-and snow-bound the past ten days. But we have plenty of food and keep relatively warm. The mean temperature for weeks has been far below the average. Our heating bills will be enormous--we expect over \$120 for January. It may turn out to be the hardest winter for Milwaukee in 100 years. How did they keep warm years ago with no electricity and wood and coal stoves? But we used to do it on the farm at 40 below zero with snow up to our ears and the pump so covered with ice that you hardly dared approach the pump handle.

Working in the movement is different now. Most of our people are working and too tired and busy making a living to devote much time to political thought and work. Mary and I are the only open Communists in Wisconsin--and we are no chickens. Congratulations to Emil on his 77th birthday. Two sevens is a lucky combination. It could win a pot in a dice game. And in another 5 years Fritz will be there, while Mary needs 8 to make it!

As to inflation--we get used to it. Both of us have simple needs. We own our home and have advantages over those who rent. Actually, it is yet not so bad for us as it was for our family back in 1918-20 when 50 pounds of white flour cost \$15 while Hoover was using food to strangle the revolutions in Europe and enrich the big millers in the U.S.A. Remember how Mother used 50 lbs. of flour and a bushel or two of potatoes (at \$6 to \$9 a bushel) every week to feed all of us, when Dad's wages didn't amount to \$5 a day?

As to operations--nothing doing. If we can get the funds, we want to go to Budapest and try therapy. Knee surgery is still too much in its infancy to be a guinea pig for commercial medicine in the U.S.A. The exercises help a great deal. And, after all, unless one keeps physically active all one's life, how many miles can one run at 72? Moderation has to be the rule.

As soon as you get a telephone send us the number. Then we will see if we can't commune again. John (Clarence) is pretty deaf, but Madeline talked to him successfully over the holidays. Clem hears all right, He is still as perky as ever.

As to the F.B.I.--the suit is still waiting. We should know by June. But we aren't spending any money in advance. Glad you got the calendar. The pictures should refresh memories of Wisconsin and the midwest for both of you. Unfortunately there were no pictures of Blacks, despite their two centuries of contributions to Wisconsin--except one where a few were in the background of a picture. (more)

By the way, would you folks object if we gave your correspondence to us over the past years to the Wisconsin Historical Society? They have a "Fred Bassett Blair papers" collection, which we'd like to add to. It is used by many scholars looking for clues to historical development in political movements. Let us know. We also want to add Naomi's letters and some other correspondence.

Just got news on the radio that O'Hare airport is shut down with 15 inches of snow on the runways. Racine county highways are impassible. The snow is so bad that Catholic churches have had to cancel Bingo games. 400 vehicles are plowing Milwaukee streets, with the worst snow still ahead. Meanwhile we sit here and enjoy ourselves. Selfish, eh?

As to Carter--news today is that he fired Bella Abzug because she was too outspoken. At this writing over half of the committee she served on have resigned, with more to come. Forces for a new political movement which might well be anti-monopoly, are beginning to emerge. 1979 might well be quite a year. Gus Hall's toast at the Party headquarters Party at New Year was prophetic. Cambodia and Iran give a lift--now San Salvador and Nicaragua are throwing off sparks.

As we tolerate our aches and pains, let us be thankful we lived to this year of 1979. Meanwhile we're getting ready for 1980, when we have municipal and county elections, Presidential and state elections. It will be fun and we will be in the midst of it all.

As difficult as it may seem from afar to carry on work here, it is not so difficult as it was when you and Emil were in Milwaukee, or Ohio, or Northern Michigan, or when we had the days of Mc Carthyism. It is very complicated but you can feel the glacier moving, and the whole political landscape is being inexorably altered.

Lots of love

Mary and Fritz

Mary and Fritz.

May 31, 1979

Dear Fred and Mary:

I wanted to write this letter five days ago but am just getting around to it — for various reasons all of no account. Ann Peter — she gets the World airmail — called to tell me about the award you won from the FBI — \$48,000 — and Gas's statement on the case. It is terrific — you cornered the FBI and made them admit their guilt, against Communists at that. I hope everyone and his uncle will file suits and expose the bastards for what they are, the persecutors arm of the capitalist gov. We are proud of you both — although that is not news because we always have been. Hope you can salvage a little for yourselves after paying off your debts. We are still hilarious every time we think of the whole case. The financial end was small — but the moral victory, great. We love you both, All considering, we are O.K. I am

3

John and Mari and the kids all are well - at the moment at least. Early in May, Andrea had measles for a change. Attita the flu - but both have recovered. We hope it lasts. Johnny is working his head off, Mari likewise, so we don't see them so often. That is also a fact of life, though a sad one. They will be over tomorrow after work with the kids and we shall all have fun - a hectic time. It's great.

Paul is well generally speaking. He is retired, feels his 74 years but learning to adjust. We are more comfortable here and that means a lot.

If you can and get around to it would you send us a copy of Gus's report to the Dec. plenum and one that came after. We get the World 3 months late - and PA also, when we get it, the miss reading these things which helps us keep up - more than ever, I must say. Love to all. More another time. Take care!

Grace et al

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going to have more surgery on my foot - it has become a must. The only question is when, which I shall know Monday. Such is life. Speaking of surgery, what's up with your knees? Have the treatments helped at all? Also, do you have any plans about trading out your way? Let me know so we can plan too. I don't have to tell you that you will be more than welcome.

Haven't heard from any of you for so long - I can't recall when last I heard. Mary Sue was moving, was she? She had a new address, I guess. Madeline was doing well - is she still. John was thinking of the City of Hope - what came of it. Clem & Edna were O.K. You saw Miss McCall and sundry. How is Bill and his? And so it goes!

We are in the throes of a heat wave for 2 weeks and the promise of more. I am not complaining - we had our share of cold weather into May. But now it is too much of a good thing. It will break one day, but usually does.

M. and F. Blair
3236 N. 15th St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin-USA-53206

Grace and Emil Gardos
Rajk, Laszlo u.--85- 1-4
Budapest, Hungary--1133

February 23, 1979

Dear Folks:

Just got your letter of Feb. 6, 1979 and were very happy to hear from you and that you are all well, with the usual ups and downs. We are O.K. We are getting out of a severe winter. Only a couple days ago we emerged from a period of 52 days below freezing (32 F. or 0 C.) and now the sun is out a little, snow is melting, and the drifts are no more than 6 to 7 feet high. Our heating bills have been over \$100 for the last two months and will probably be the same next month. We have been penned in the house, but once in awhile got out for groceries, so we haven't suffered as some people have. We are sorry for the people on the East Coast who got suddenly hit with our kind of weather and didn't know what to do with it--like Mary Sue, Aimee and Orville and Joanne, etc.

We hope Emil is over his erysipelas. He comes from good healthy Magyar stock and should be good for a long time yet. If the Magyars could survive the Hapsburgs, anything else should be easy. We have just finished reading Vol. 9 of Marx-Engels which has many pages about the Hungarian Revolution of 1848-49. (We're still waiting impatiently for Vol. X and XI which have more material.). With our visit to Balaton in 1976, all this comes home intimately since much of the action occurred in areas which we saw when we were there. It's like reading about home.

Mary Sue is hoping very much that Michael can get a job with the Wis. Historical Society at Madison. We are keeping our fingers crossed about it--there are so many disappointments in getting a job. We hope very much it will come about, for Madeline's sake and our own--as well as for theirs.

We have just written to Clem and Clarence. You told us much about Clarence that we didn't know before--their plans to move etc.--that we are glad we correspond back and forth. We learn a lot that way.

As to Chinca, here is a jingle I wrote:

Advice from a Chinese Visitor.
Teng came here and gave advice.
Look it over once or twice.
How is "Teng" pronounced and sung?
Everybody knows it's "dung".
So his advice demands, of course,
Consideration of its source.

Also, another jingle about the Shah of Iran:

The Shah's kicked out. Iran is taking
His stolen gold. His friends are quaking,
(The Wall Street Shahs) because they fear
The same thing soon might happen here.

We are very worried about Chinese invasion of Viet Nam. Last night there was a meeting in Milwaukee against that. Some unawareness of the danger, but some concern. A vigil is slated for Saturday, Fe. 24th. Very serious situation. One cannot believe the Chinese people will put up with such insane leadership for much longer.

February 6, 1979

Dear Fred and Mary:

The first big news is that we are back in the world. In other words, we have a telephone. Our new number is: 206-547. You can pass it on to the rest of the family.

We got your letter together with the pics (Madeline, Sandy and Heather), the report, etc. The whole family read your letter and enjoyed it immensely. Ditto the poems. The one on "There are clones" should be distributed in leaflet form - it tells it like it is. I liked your report: congratulations on the great vote you pulled out there. I had a letter from Lottie who wrote that "you undoubtedly heard about the wonderful vote of Fred", but we had no other info. The pic of you two (with which cat?) is very good. Thanks for everything.

Heather must be quite a gal. Bill sent us one of the Christmas cards which you wrote she designed, etc. It was refreshing - something other than the usual tinsel and such. She is cute as a bug's ear and indeed is reinscencem of our Andi. She will be four on Feb. 22nd, and Mary's birthday is on Feb. 19th. So we are celebrating the two on Sunday, the 18th. My birthday and Johnny's were in January. We always have five birthdays from Dec. 19 to Feb. 22. Attila's, fortunately, is in October so we get a breather in between, discounting Christmas and other holidays.

At the moment, everyone seems to have recovered here. Andi is back at the nursery. Emil is recovering from an erysipelas on his leg which could have been very nasty if he hadn't gone to the doctor right away. He finished taking the anti-biotics today and the doctor says he can go swimming again next week. Yesterday Mary came down with a mild flu, but seems to be doing well at throwing it off. Today the weather is milder, the sun came out for a change, and if it keeps up, we shall have spring soon. Of course, we can still have rough weather but not for any long duration.

I had a nice letter from John and Harriet a few days ago. They write that Lottie was out there for a visit and they took her around to see the sights. Also, they are planning to move to a bigger place with a yard so Mary Ellen's children can have a yard to play in. John-Clarence seems to be doing all right considering, and plans on trying for the City of Hope place to see what they can do for him. If it will help, it's a good idea. Hope the therapy you are getting will give you some relief. In all events, if you get here, that is all to the good - at least for us. So we can keep on hoping.

Heard from Mary Sue at the beginning of the year. She said Michael was oping for an opening at Madison. Did anything come of it? That would be great if they could get back to Wis. It would do Madeline some good as well.

Just read the letter to the Chinese. Am glad some one finally put it on the line: the Chinese leaders sold out period. Things are popping all around the world, but there is room for optimism. You are so right, the glacier is on the move.

Take care. Love to all and sundry. Write when you can.

PS If you think our letters have any value, use them as you wish - with some editing, notes. Grace
The kids read their love - they read all your letters. Love, Emil

M + J. Blair
3236 N. 15th St.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin USA-53206

June 16, 1979

Grace and Emil Dardos

R. 1/2 S. 1/2 4-85-I-4

Budapest, Hungary-1138

Dear Family:

We got your letter of May 31, 1979 on Madeline Island a bit late. Madeline, Sue, Michael and Peter were here when it came and they read it too. It was so hectic, as Effie and Bob (Mary's sister and husband) came then too, and we had a lot of things to do - so we weren't smart enough to write a collective letter while they were here. They are well - we had fun - they saw 23 deer one night. The weather was cool. We've had only a couple days when we didn't need the fire-place going.

Mary Sue's new address is: Mary Sue and Michael Smith
606 East Franklin Phone: 1-919-834-7896.

Raleigh, North Carolina-27604

Madeline and the three of them were fine and had a good time here, and a safe journey home. We have talked on the phone with them twice from here to Green Bay. (Mary Sue prefers to be called "Sue" or "Susan".)

John was disappointed with his stay at the City of Hope. Came back feeling worse than when he went in. He has gone back to his old doctor and now feels better.

Clara and Edna sounded good when we last talked with them. She was in the hospital for check-up and Junior and Michelle (Missy) were visiting, so we had a talk with all of them. Michael seems better - had part of his pancreas removed, which seems to help check effects of his diabetes.

Aimee was in the hospital for extensive check-up to find reasons for abdominal pains. Doctors found nothing. Hazel seemed all right last time Madeline talked with her, though she feels her 79 1/2 years.

Bill, Sandy and Heather will be here next week. We will be back in Milwaukee after the 1st of July. Mary and I will miss the Wis. State Convention, June 30-July 1st. We hate to do this, but neither of us can take the strain of long sessions any more. Will also miss the National Convention, which should be a real experience. We have to adjust ourselves to a subsidiary role.

Thanks for the good words on Mary's victory over the FBI. We agree with your thoughts, True, the settlement wasn't much, but the case set a precedent. We were able to make donations to the Party, D.C., P.A., the Alliance, etc. Fortunately, the Wis. Civil Liberties Union took the case and bore the expenses. The attorneys asked only the cost of phone calls, Xeroxing, correspondence etc, amounting to a little over \$500. They had the award worked in such a way as to ensure tax-exemption. We have set aside funds for possible tax and other challenges - but don't expect them. For the moment we are able to shop without counting pennies. On getting home we plan to get a new stove. Otherwise it will be life as usual, but with financial worry. (over)

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When we get back home we'll send you Gus's reports and back ~~sets~~ issues of P.A. • Also recent Party Organizers.

Emil and Effie are about the same age - Next week, on the 24th we'll celebrate Effie's 77th birthday. Also Mort Altman, formerly of Milwaukee and now of San Diego, also is 77, but in worse shape than the other two.

Our love to John and Mari, Andrea and Attile - and you two. Regards to comrades whom we met there and who were so kind to us. We'll think of you and drink a toast or two when Bill gets here.

Love.

Fritz and Mary

More love and kisses + wish so much you could both be with us - think of you all the time -

and we're almost out of paper & if any one comes your way + its convenient could you send us some more - can't live without it.

Mary and Fred Blair
3236 N. 15th St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin-USA--53206

Grace and Emil Gardos
Rajk Laszlo u.--85--I--4
Budapest, Hungary--1133

June 28, 1980

Dear Grace and Emil:

When we got your letter dated June 6, 1980, we were sure we had written you recently. But when we looked up our file, to our chagrin we discovered that the last time we wrote you was November 16, 1979. We apologize for neglecting you and will try to make up for it the rest of this year.

Time just flies now, and we don't seem to get much done. We are working on the election campaign, winding up the petition drive. We should be on the ballot in Wisconsin. The response of the people is warm and friendly. Once the petition drive is over, then it will be possible to arrange mass meetings, get on the radio and TV etc. By the way, our papers yesterday had a notice that Angela Davis is getting married July 5th in Birmingham, Ala. to Hilton Brathwaite, a photographer. This is the first mention in the capitalist press of her being our vice-presidential candidate!

We are in good enough health, despite arthritis, and some dental work that Mary is going through. We bought a Jacuzzi whirlpool bath, which is of some help in relieving stiffness and pain from arthritis. It is a small portable one that attaches to the bathtub. Mary's doctor brother, Jack, suggested we try it, so we did.

We hope Andrea is well by now, and are sorry to hear that they will be abroad for some time--sorry, not for them, but for you, as we can imagine how much you'll miss them.

Glad to hear about your new ~~hale~~ job. We are very happy with our bathroom, and are grateful for the money the F.B.I. provided us so we could fix up the house. We also had our basement fixed finally, so that it is dry now and doesn't smell of mildew any more. We also have to have help to get our house cleaned. Joe Horton's daughter, Josephine (her Muslim name is Zakkiyah) comes in occasionally for that. And a young woman, Belinda Collins, who loves gardening, comes around weekly and does all sorts of heavy work with great joy--for free.

We talk on the phone often with Madeline. She is feeling fine now, and may visit us one of these weeks. She may be at Madeline Island with us in August. We will be there only two weeks this summer--August 1-to-15. We are enjoying our garden very much this summer. Small as it is, we'll have onions, beans, lettuce, ~~zakkary~~ spinach, peoppers, tomatoes and some herbs. We have millions of flowers. This year we will be here to keep out the weeds, and tend and water the plants.

Clem and Edna are O.K., Clarence is too deaf to talk on the phone, but writes often. Mary Sue and her family are fine--fixing up their home. Bill, Sandra and Heather will be at the Island with us for at least a week. Heather will tell us all about her eye-witness participation in the Mount St. Helen's eruption. She was at a summer camp 12 miles away. They were shielded from the blast by a high ridge, but Bill was washing volcanic ash from her hair and clothes for a couple days. Seattle escaped the ash.

Yes, the danger of nuclear holocaust is very strong. But we believe the people's will for peace will prevail.

Love to all.

we envy your life in a Socialist country.

Mary and
Fred

June 6, 1980

Dear Fred and Mary²

I have not heard from any of you for months on end. I guess my last letter to Madeline crossed in the mail. I had a letter from Sue, but have not written either. This is to tell you we think of you often, and hope you will break down and write.

It is hard to know what to say. When I don't write for a long time, things crowd up so it is difficult to sift and choose. So if this is somewhat incoherent, you will have to ~~it~~ overlook it.

First, health-wise: We are all well at the moment, with the exception of Andrea. She goes to the nursery and, as usual, picks up everything around, as children everywhere do. She has a bronchitis, but nothing serious. Mary is home with her - ~~the~~ mothers with small children get sick leave when the child is ill. Attila is 12 and is a darling, doing well in school, and the proud recipient of a medal for scholastic achievement and volunteer work with the children's organization. Andrea is gorgeous, a little imp, and a very sweet child. We are proud grandparents and don't hesitate to show it. We shall miss them and Johnny and Mary very much: they are setting out in a few weeks for a long stay abroad. We shall feel very much alone, but that is part of life, too.

We have been doing some of what you did. We had the kitchen, bathroom, and WC ~~up~~ painted and prettied up: Tiles in all three places (floor and wall). The kitchen floor is blue, the other places green. Mary went out with her brother-in-law - that is his trade - bought everything, they brought it here, and the men did the work. It is much easier to keep clean and we really enjoy it. Now, I am trying to get some help on the heavy work, and then I shall have some time to do other things. This new place is really easy to keep clean, but my hands and feet have reached a point where they can't take it anymore. So it is time to dig in and keep on going.

PS We get the P.A. Thanks. Don't send it again because the subscribe here and get it just as soon, or as late, as from NY direct.

The Daily & P.A. reach us with a 2-3 months delay, the Hungarian Word sometimes by airmail, but thanks to a radio & occasional news magazines & visitors & the local media we are following events quite closely. This makes my enforced slowing down more bearable, although it is no fun to be a geriatric case... I wish more could be done to lessen Grace's load. But this is a law of nature... and Johnny's family a source of strength. Say hello to our relatives and friends in my behalf too - and take maximum care of yourselves. The mere witnessing of the realization of our dreams and efforts makes up for the shady things...
Lots of love Emil

- 2 -

Emil is well, although he feels his 78 years. He really does a lot, but doesn't believe it. He does all the shopping and lugs it home so I have something to cook with. He goes swimming three times a week. Then he complains he is tired. He should keep on like that, complaining for many more years and everything will be OK.

Hope both of you are well. We here are concerned about this crazy old world. This morning, we heard over BBC about another false missile alert due to a "technical fault". That is the second phony alert, and I am wondering what is going to happen if there is a third. With a peanut president with an ex-Polish aristocrat for an advisor anything can happen, unless the American people act to check their trigger-happy hands. They are desperate, naturally, and that is a serious danger. People here say Carter is crazy - they said it about Hitler, too, and the world got clobbered. Of course, today is not the '30s, the socialist world is around, and the peoples heaving for their own liberation, and we believe they will have the upper hand. Men like Ramsay Clark are to be respected: Vance, too, is being to stand up, and I guess there are many, many more among the little people who will do ~~the~~ it sooner or later. You must have it really hard now, pushing in such an atmosphere of hysteria. Wish we could do more than give our love, admiration, and thanks there are people like you around.

I hope the family is well as can be expected. When you talk with Clem, Madeline, or the others, give them our love. Tell them we are doing all right. This is a peaceful part of the world we are in, and people here want it kept that way. We do have problems, economy-wise, but they are being handled and will be overcome.

Write when you can. Unincidentally, Sue sent me a picture of Peter in your fabulous bathroom. It is all that Madeline wrote it was.

Love, Grace

M. and F. Blair--3236 N. 15th St.--Milwaukee, Wisconsin-USA-53206

Grace and Emil Gardos-
Rajk, L. u.--85
Budapest, Hungary--H. 113X

Aug. 16, 1979

Dear Folks:

A belated reply to your letter of July 23, 1979. Hope the surgery on your foot, Grace, was successful, and that Emil is recovered from the Achilles heel difficulties. We told Madeline that it seems our family has a lot of trouble with teeth and feet. Mother had misery with her feet, and teeth. Clem, Aimee, Madeline and Grace had foot troubles--Naomi too. And teeth? You know the story. Add up the natural teeth of all of us and it wouldn't make more than one whole set for one person.

Madeline is coming down next Monday, Aug. 21st, for a couple days. She has been having her teeth fixed up with a new plate, otherwise would have been here before. She will help us spend some of Mary's money picking out things we need in the house. She has very good taste and judgement when it comes to shopping, where both of us are weak. A new gas stove will be installed when she arrives--one she helped us pick out at Sears. We have a different car now--a red 1972 Volkswagen station-wagon, which is much easier to pack than our bug. We got it at bargain price from the gas station dealer and repair man we have dealt with for 23 years. We turned the W.W. Beetle over to Sandra, our D.O. and she is delighted with it. It is easy on gas and fine for driving back and forth to work. Madeline seems fine now. She gets out a lot with friends. Often she's not home when we call, and that is a good sign.

We talked to Clem on his birthday, Aug. 9th, also Edna. Both sounded well. Edna has lost a lot of weight, which makes it easier for her to get around. Heather's birthday is the same as his. When ~~she~~ we phoned her she was not home--probably on a birthday party with her folks.

We haven't sent the stuff Emil wanted yet, but hope to get around to it. Since we got back from the Island July 4th, we have been up to our ears in stuff--mostly getting our house painted inside and out, a new bathroom, and now getting the basement waterproofed. If young Kurki comes to stay with us while he goes to school in Milwaukee the next two years, we will need some furniture. Our office will have to be moved into the main attic so he can use the present one for his bedroom. A daughter of Joe Horton is working once a day to keep the house clean, and she is a corker--only 22 and beautiful. She is a Muslim, and dresses accordingly, but very much anti-monopoly. Her husband did a lot of the painting and other stuff that had to be done.

We hate to miss the convention. We just can't do it in the shape we are both in. Mary'd like to go, but can't sit through long meetings here. And I can't stand more than a few minutes without being exhausted for the day. The arthritis is no worse, but isn't likely to get better. There is no cartilage in either knee joint, as we said before. It's just a matter of taking it easy as much as possible. Since we are going to spend much of our life at home, we want to make the house as comfortable as possible.

The price raises you wrote about are nothing compared to inflation here. In 1978 Wisconsin average income rose 10.8%--but didn't keep up with price rises. And we get none of the benefits people get where you are. Now we are in a "recession"--unemployment is rising all over. Milwaukee is not so hard hit as other big cities because of varied industry--but it is beginning.

Love to all of you.

Mary and Fritz. *Mary and Fritz*

July 23, 1979

Dear Fred and Mary:

We had your letter dated June 16 a few weeks ago. By now, you have been home for three weeks and it is about time that you had an answer.

It was good to hear about the family, that all are well, if not hale and hearty, and able to cope. What fun it must have been to be together with at least a fraction of the Blairs, including the very young and the not so young. Thanks for sending Sue's address - one of these fine days I'll really break down and write to her. I know Sue prefers to be called Sue, but Madeline always calls her Mary Sue and I just picket it up. I shall go back to "Sue". You didn't say, but I gather Madeline is better now. I hope it keeps. Give them all our love. That goes for Clem and Edna and their's, too. Sorry to learn that John got no help - some City of Hope. I could think of a better name for the place, maybe City of Lost Hopes. Tell Aimee if and when you talk to her that I am glad they found nothing wrong although it was probably a disappointment not to know what goes with her abdomen.

We are more or less all right although right now we have our health problems, like most others. Emil's one foot practically recovered from its inflammation of the Achilles tendon when today the other foot started. He has a light cast on the foot now and it will be about three weeks before they take it off. Then it takes a month or so before the inflammation subsides entirely. Since Emil has been doing the shopping it complicates matters. But we shall survive. Unfortunately, the surgeon can't do much for my feet: I am going into the hospital, if all goes well, Sept. 6 for surgery on my toe that has been bothering me so much. That should help to make me more comfortable. The surgeon wont do anything about the bone I keep w@lking on all the time - all my toes would go to pot. They did say, though, they would try to something with mechanical means - other arch supports, etc. We shall see what we shall see!

You probably heard about the price increases in our part of the world. Here everyone has been expecting it for so long it came as no surprise. However, it is steeper than expected. Not that anyone likes it, but it is accepted as is. It will take a few weeks before we find out really how much it does mean financially to us. Of course, the fact that everybody gets a little added to wages and pensions also helps. I have a hunch the percentage increase will be bigger ~~xxx~~ than it looks like now.

Glad to hear you came out ahead via Mary's case. I am hoping that for just once you can both have it a bit easier. Sorry to learn you are not up to being at the convention. It will probably be a great experience. I guess we all have to face up to the facts of life sooner or later, whether we like it or not. And who said anything about liking it?

As soon as I can find someone who will take back some paprika I shall send. Your guess is as good as mine as to when that will be. Hope your's holds out until then.

Our kids are at the moment all well. Let's hope that tomorrow I can say the same thing. Andi has a way of surprising us, after all. We expect them tomorrow and are happy when they can come.

Love to all and write now and then or more often. Love,
Maac

M. and F. Blair
3236 N. 15th St.
Milwaukee, Wis.--53206--USA--

Nov. 16, 1979

Grace and Emil Gardos
Laszlo Rajk u.--85-I-4
Budapest, Hungary--1133

Dear Grace and Emil:

It's now three months since we last wrote to you. We haven't heard from you, but assume you are all right, since "no news is good news."

We are winding up repairs on the house. A new basement has been laid down. It still has to be painted. We have minor repairs on the eaves and gutters and a couple windows to be better sealed. Then we'll be snug for the winter. Just got our October gas bill for heating etc.--\$53.00. Imagine what it will be in the four months ahead! Utility bills here teach us to appreciate the Socialism you have there!

We hope you got John's letter, which we forwarded, since he had mislaid your address. They are planning to move into apartments, with Mary Ellen and her family taking over the old homestead on Cowlin Avenue. They seem all right though John(Clarence) has had difficulties during the summer because of emphysema.

Madeline is coming down for Thanksgiving next week, weather permitting. We plan to spend Christmas with her, and with Mary Sue and family. We will stay at a motel and come over during the day. It should be nice. Mary Sue and Michael are distressed over the KKK killings at Greensboro, N.C., which is not far from them. The situation is complicated because the group which paraded and was attacked by the Klan calls itself "The Workers Communist Party." The group originated from the Progressive Labor Party; first appeared as "Viewpoint" then "Workers Viewpoint", then split from the P.L.P. and formed itself as "Workers Communist Party." (Information secured locally from former N. Carolinians.) The demand for outlawing the Klan is swelling. This killing comes shortly after the AFL-CIO of North Carolina called for Black-White unity to organize J.P. Stevens and other non-union shops in the state. A glance at the map shows that Greensboro is in the middle of a large manufacturing district where Stevens and other textile giants are located.

The Iran events are giving the ultra-Right a chance to whip up jingoism in the form of anti-Arianian, anti-Arabian chauvinism, following up on Carter's anti-OPEC line. There has been a rise of jingoism in the schools and shops in response to this. But interestingly, today in Madison 400 students demonstrated in defense of the Iranian students in America, while only 200 anti-Iranians watched and kept still. The Jewish Defense League has played an active role in the anti-Iranian actions here and in Madison.

We are getting ready--all too slowly and tardily--for next year's elections. The Kennedy forces in Wisconsin are getting well-organized, headed by Pat Lucey, former governor and ex-ambassador to Mexico. There is a fight going on over the Open Primary in Wisconsin, which I think will be won by its advocates against the national Democratic Committee policy. Gov. Brown has already endorsed the Wisconsin open primary. I suspect Kennedy will also. I think Kennedy will win the Wisconsin vote--but he may not win the nomination next year.

Carter has won a temporary uplift by his incitement to nationalism in the Iranian situation. But the memory of Viet Nam is there to haunt him
--over--

and anybody else infatuated with war fever as a means of diverting attention from Economic and other domestic problems.

You have probably heard about Gus Hall's back trouble, and his hospitalization in the Soviet Union. From the limited reports we hear, he is improving and keeping right up with every development. That is encouraging. We are facing complex developments. We have strong leadership; headed by Winnie. But we need Gus's presence here in the days ahead, to complete the team.

There is so much going on now that it is hard to pick out what is important and what not. On all kinds of issues movements spring up and demonstrations take place. Strikes are hitting right and left--some last a long while, some a short while. But the workers are on the move. When we sit down to think: "what can we do about this issue?" before we make up our minds the radio or TV report that some group has sprung up and is taking a position on the issue. And often it is pretty close to what we would propose. Of course, the ultra-Left are in many of these movements, and try to distort them. But there seems to be an elemental force which pushes the movements in the direction they really ought to go.

As much as we are limited in our movements and connections because of health and aging, we are in contact with a lot of sincere, dedicated, energetic, and thoughtful young people who do not hesitate to exchange opinions with us. They go their own way, but generally in the right way, even though at times it seems they are off track once in awhile. It is very comforting. I'm afraid we are a bit relieved to think that everything doesn't depend on us, that the responsibility has gone to younger people. Yet we still have something to contribute--not as wise elders, advising from the sidelines, but as a small part of the large development, going along with it.

There is a young man who lived in Berlin, Wis. that we have met. It is amusing to hear what some of the older Polish farmers around Red Granite say about me: "The biggest disgrace to Red Granite ever." I know of other people there who think a bit differently. It shows they have not forgotten us after all these years, though they may not agree with us.

We talked to Bill and Sandy last week. He was a bit upset about illness in his mother's family. But they hope to be with us next August at Madeline Island. It is too much to hope for you to be there then. We will be there the first two weeks at least. (even though it is an election year.) But we are making our plans.

We love all of you very much.

Mary and Fritz.

Mary and Fred Blair
3236 N. 15th St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin--U.S.A.--53206

Nov. 23, 1980

Grace and Emil Gardos
Rajk Laszlo u--85--I--4
Budapest, HUNGARY--1133

Dear Grace and Emil:

Just got your letter of Oct. 25, 1980 a week or so ago. We were very yappy to hear from you, and ashamed that we haven't written since the end of June. We hope the doctors there are helping you with the eye problem. Mary has had incipient glaucoma now for ten or more years. Her sister Effie--now 78, same as Emil--has had it for 20 to 30 years. The medications plus regular check-ups, have kept its development down, so that both of them are able to manage. Perhaps yours is a bit different. But we are sure the doctors there are just as good, (perhaps better) as those here, and up to date on treatments of such conditions. We hope for the best.

No, the ash from Mt. St. Helen's eruption did not reach Seattle. The prevailing air movement is from the north-west, and Seattle got none of the ash--it went east and south of the volcano. We have a tape-recording of Heather's experience of the eruption and aftermath. She gave it to us at the Island. We had a wonderful time with them there, and hope they can make it next year. Yes, it is a bit of hard work for Mary and me up there, but we enjoy it. It will be quite cool there next June, and we'll have to haul and burn some wood.

Now for a report on various family members:

- a) Bill, Sandra and Heather. Bill is busy and travelling a lot, as usual. Spends much time in Alaska, and does a lot of writing. Sent us about 10 pounds of smoked salmon, which must have cost a bundle, but was very much appreciated by us and various guests. Sandra is going to law school, agonizing over it, but doing all right. Heather is in a new school to which she is bused, and is appearing in a ballet with some other children as supers in one scene--the Nutcracker Suite. They're all O.K.
- b) Madeline is now at Aimee's in Silver Springs, Maryland, watching over things while Orville went to the hospital for prostatic exploration. Nothing malignant and he'll soon be home. Then Madeline will go to Raleigh, NC to visit Mary Sue, Michael and Peter over Thanksgiving. They'll all go back to Aimee and Orville's place for Christmas--except that Mary Sue and family will go to Michael's parents. This means Madeline and her cat Smoky will spend Xmas with Aimee.
- c) On the same day that Orville Slye went to the hospital in Maryland, Clem went to the hospital in Moline for a hernia operation. He had tried to lift Edna when she was feeling weak. Her feet are bad and her knees just about like mine. Clem is fine. We have talked with Edna, Junior, and Andy, Junior's oldest son (now attending Blackhawk College at Rock Island) and are up to date. Clem is going home soon--may be there now.
- d) We are getting along fine--aches and pains, but what do you expect? We don't know where the days, weeks and months go to. We map out a day's activities, then people drop in and everything is askew. We haven't issued a book-list since March, but are working on one now.
- e) Hazel called up during the summer from Fond du Lac where she was visiting Joe's relatives. She came out with her Freddy Wallace husband, and was with Madeline for a visit. That's the first time in nigh on 50 years and was a surprise. At 80 she still seems to be full of pep.

--over--

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f) Clarence (John) writes fairly often and we answer fairly promptly. His most annoying problem is his hearing. Freddy, with all his electronic knowledge and experience, hasn't been able to work out a proper way for him to use the telephone. So we don't phone him much--rather we write. His emphysema immobilizes him a lot, but he has an exercise bike to keep up his muscles. During the summer he has to stay at home with the air-conditioner on but now that cooler weather has come he should be more comfortable. Mary Ellen and her family, and Fred are getting along O.K. We had intended phoning Mary Ellen at Clarence's house on Oct. 4th, her birthday which she shares with me. (Peter's birthday is Sept. 5th, same as Mary.) But Angela Davis was in town and the excitement about that cancelled the call. We have apologized for our failure.

Now, on the elections. You know the results. Carter is out and Reagan in. The more it changes, the more it remains the same, as the French say. Here in Wisconsin one surprise was the defeat of Gaylord Nelson for U.S. Senator. He was beaten by Kasten, a "moderate" Republican from the family of bankers that used to run the First Wisconsin National Bank--and are quite wealthy and influential. Nelson apparently thought he had it made, and didn't spend much time in the state till it was too late. The Republicans gained one congressman in the La Crosse area, and now have four; the Democrats kept five districts--two in Milwaukee, one in Racine-Kenosha, one around Madison, and one in the north. They lost the La Crosse area--usually Republican.

The legislature remains Democratic, with a slick demagogue Lee Dreyfus as the Republican governor. Carter lost Wisconsin. The working class voters, farmers and middle-class, were fed up with Carter and voted for Reagan for a change. Our vote was kept down by the last minute lesser-evil surge for Carter. There were many Independent candidates in Wisconsin this year. Gus and Angela got about the same vote the Party had in 1976 in Wisconsin. We lost a lot of votes to the Anderson column, and to the Citizens' Party. But we had quite an effective campaign. We distributed tens of thousands of Daily Worlds and leaflets, had radio spot-announcements, and some ads in newspapers. Angela's visit to Milwaukee created a stir. I (Fritz) had the honor of introducing her (partially--the main introduction was by Sandra Jones, our D.O.) at Jefferson Hall (now The New Yorker) at her press conference Oct. 4th. She is a magnificent comrade, simple, and forthright in her speech, and completely convincing in her replies to questions, with answers intelligible to those even least familiar with our approaches and thinking. German Public TV, Channel I, covered her movements in Milwaukee and Chicago the next day, and taped an interview in German with her. I asked if the broadcast could reach Hungary, and they said it couldn't because of the mountains in between, but would cover the FRG, GDR, Poland, and some countries to the West of the FRG. Frankfurt-am-Main is their base.

Big struggles ahead. The Reagan forces will push hard to the right. But 25% of the total voters is no mandate, nor any landslide. And the people are not going to go that way. There will be real motion towards a new political formation with many anti-monopoly forces involved, and Labor well-represented. Fascinating days ahead!

We're having cold weather now--in the 40's during the days and 20's during the nights--(F.)--No snow yet, though some is predicted for tonight. We'll spend Thanksgiving with some comrades, and welcome Lilly Rody and her son John on Sunday. We spend a lot of time preparing meals and washing dishes. But it is nice to have young people and children in the house.

We love both of you, and think of you always. We'll try not to wait so long before writing again.

Fritz and Mary

Fritz and Mary.

Dear Fred and Mary:

October 25, 1980

This time I have to say that I didn't realize so much time had gone by since we got your letter written at the end of June. So many things have happened that I just can't seem to get everything done that I want to. Will try to do better next time.

I had a letter from Madeline, too, not long after your's came so will have to write her as well. In fact, I owe everyone by this time but other family members and friends will have to be kept waiting for the nonce.

It was good to read about the election campaign. The media here has carried the essential points of events there and around the world and we get the trimmings which have to be sifted of course from the BBC and other such crappy sources. It's a good thing Gus and Angela Davis are running; some people have a choice to vote for.

Glad to hear the family is well all things considered. As for us, we heard from our kids last week. They are all well, have adjusted surprisingly quickly, and we count the days, weeks and months when they will be home on vacation. At the rate time is going by it will come quicker than we thought. Emil keeps well and busy. It is amazing how much he does, including swimming three days a week, shopping, handling affairs that need attention, and active in our house where we have problems to solve. I have at the moment a serious eye problem - glaucoma derived from ~~arteriosclerosis~~ arteriosclerosis. I am writing Madeline somewhat more in detail and asking her to try to find out if there are any new procedures for treating this type which the doctors here say is extremely rare. The doctors will do their best which, I have a hunch, is not much. It's a lousy break but what can one do? Otherwise I feel OK, keep busy what with the housework and activity in the neighborhood, although on a most moderate scale.

I read in our papers that St. Helens Mount blew again a few weeks ago. Hope Heather wasn't around for that one. It seems the ash was carried quite far - did it reach Seattle?

We had no summer this year. It was colder in July than now. In fact, July 4th was the coldest July 4th in 100 years, and the temperature didn't go up too much afterwards either. We did have a few days of hot weather, but far and few between. Emil left for the pool and now it is raining. We've had a lot of this kind of weather lately and it is really a pain in the neck. Fortunately the heating is adequate at the moment so we don't have that much to complain about.

When you talk to Clem and Edna give them my love. I will write them soon, or sooner or later. Also, John Clarence who owes me a letter. Do you hear from Lottie? If so, tell her Christmas is getting near and that is my time for catching up on correspondence and she will also hear from me. Incidentally, we didn't see Helen Winter when she was here. She was kept very busy, our phone was out of order and if we wanted to make a call we had to take the bus and find a phone, I was snarled up running to the doctors, etc. I was sorry not to be able to say "hello".

Hope this finds you both in good health enjoying your spruced up house. How are your legs doing these days? Has the whirlpool baths helped? I find that every little bit which makes these things better is quite a lot.

Write when you can. Love to you both. We think of you more often than you can know.

Grace

I have little to add to the above. Grace is - and has been - too generous

about me. She is carrying too much of the burden and is spry as
ever. We miss the kids, our old friends (overseas and here who passed
away) the family, but life goes on... Lots of love, Emil

M. and F. Blair
3236 N. 15th St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
U.S.A.--53206.

Grace and Emil Gardos
Rajk Laszlo u. 85-I
Budapest, Hungary--1133

Dec. 28, 1980

Dear Folks:

It was a thrill for us to talk with you on the telephone yesterday--almost a bigger thrill than that we got when Mary received her check from her suit against the F.B.I.--the check that enables us to do things like phoning you.

This is a brief note to accompany the pictures we're sending you. Bill took them last summer at Madeline Island while his family was with us.

We hope John and Mari and the children are recovered from the hepatitis attack. It is no fun to get that. Some of our friends have caught it this last year. It is all too prevalent here. The viral type is very infectious. We wish them good health as soon as possible, and the same to both of you. Both of you sounded strong and enthusiastic over the phone. Who knows? We might find a way to meet in the time ahead, despite our aversion to travel.

Will write more at length soon.

Happy birthdays to both of you! We aren't getting much younger ourselves. But we welcome the struggles ahead--which are beginning already with no illusions among the people about Reagan, such as were common about Carter.

Our love and warmest regards,

Mary and Fritz.

Mary and Fritz.